

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1224

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Otis and Kathy Eldridge.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Otis and Kathy Eldridge are just such noteworthy persons who have endeavored to provide quality family entertainment through their annual Memory Lane Car Show, to be held this year on May 24, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the couple's home in Rogersville is the site of the unique Memory Lane, a full scale 1950s village that allows visitors to relive the bygone era by means of numerous period buildings and exhibits; and

WHEREAS, Memory Lane features an old country store full of '50s relics, a stainless steel diner, an antique Texaco service station, a drive-in theater, a jailhouse with mannequin inmates, a City Hall, a two-lane bowling alley, a bank, a doctor's office, a television and radio repair shop, a blacksmith shop, a train station, a school house, a church, and a functioning moonshine still with a 1957 Ford nearby for hauling the jugs away; and

WHEREAS, the Eldridges also have erected a car dealership, complete with a showroom and a garage, at Memory Lane; inside the showroom, visitors behold wonders that make even the most jaded automotive enthusiasts' engines rev, wonders such as Richard Petty's NASCAR Pontiac Grand Prix, Hemi 'Cudas, a 1970 Superbird, a 1966 427 Corvette, and a Hemi Roadrunner, among several others; and

WHEREAS, every year Otis and Kathy Eldridge host the Memory Lane Car Show, an event that attracts approximately 700 classic cars for exhibition and more than 8,000 spectators; and

WHEREAS, in addition to offering an abundance of orange Nehi soda and Moon Pies for sale, this festival to celebrate the 1950s will showcase live oldies music, an Elvis impersonator, and a movie at the drive-in theater; and

WHEREAS, the Eldridges donate the proceeds from this annual event to such noteworthy organizations as the American Cancer Society and the families and soldiers of the 278th Regimental Combat Team; and

WHEREAS, Otis and Kathy Eldridge epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the Eldridges for their efforts to provide wholesome community entertainment through their Memory Lane and the Memory Lane Car Show; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Otis and Kathy Eldridge for hosting the outstanding Memory Lane Car Show, as we extend to them our best wishes for every success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.